

Rai Radiotelevisione Italiana
VIALE MAZZINI 14
00195
Italy

Reykjavík, 29. júlí 2021
UST202107-145/S.S.
09.06.01

Subject: Permit for cinematography at Surtsey, Gullfoss and Geysir

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Rai Radiotelevisione Italiana, dated 14. July 2021, for cinematography within the protected areas of Surtsey, Gullfoss and Geysir.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Surtsey is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 50/2006. Written permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed to visit the island and dive within the nature reserve. Permits to visit are issued exclusively for research purposes and/or for projects directly related to research. Photographers and filmmakers can apply for permits to visit to produce documentary material relating to Surtsey and associated research projects situated within the designated nature reserve.

Description of the project:

The making of a scientific dissemination tv program that aims to tell the audience about the beauty of the planet in all its aspects and the complex relationship between man and our planet.

Surtsey - The exceptional creation process regarding the birth of the island will be covered by a team of five crewmembers, as well as observing natural phenomenon's that is hardly possible to observe elsewhere. The plan is to interview a scientist that deals with scientific research in Surtsey and spend one day in Surtsey to follow research activity. Low impact equipment and a drone will be used to capture footage.

Gullfoss and Geysir – a crew of six will do an interview with 1x tripod camera and audio equipment for max 4 hours at each location. No drones will be used during the filming at these locations.

Impact assessment:

Regarding Surtsey the Environment Agency of Iceland considers it positive to educate and share new knowledge from research expeditions from Surtsey. Drone flight might disrupt birds in the area. Various sea and coastal birds nest in Surtsey and care must be taken not to cause them unnecessary disturbance.

Regarding Gullfoss and Geysir the Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the protected areas as long as the crew stays within authorized paths. The project might however disrupt and have negative impact on the experience of other guests at these locations.

It is extremely important that the licensee complies fully with the conditions set out here below.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Rai Radiotelevisione Italiana permission on its behalf for cinematography within the Surtsey, Gullfoss and Geysir protected areas, as described above on 4.-6. August 2021 on the following conditions:

Special conditions regarding Surtsey:

- Regarding Surtsey this permit is only valid for the following individuals named in the application
 - **Massimiliano Ossini** - Anchorman and writer
 - **Antonio Palmadessa** - Director of photography
 - **Simone Curiseri** – Soundman
 - **Daniel Pezzani** – Drone operator
 - **Roberto Bruni** – Writer and scientific advisor
- This permit is only valid for one day within the timeframe 4.-6. August. The day (4., 5., or 6. of August) will be chosen by the team of scientists from the University of Iceland that will accompany you on the same day.
- Time spent in the area should be limited as possible.
- Crew members need to thoroughly clean all clothing and equipment before entering the island to prevent any soil, seeds or organisms from being brought to the island. The expedition leader is responsible for introducing guidelines on how to clean clothes and equipment to other members of the expedition.
- If clothes and equipment are not clean the supervisor from the Environment Agency can request that any equipment is re-cleaned or left behind, that departure is delayed until improvements have been made or request that the travel permit is withdrawn.
- It is not allowed to disturb fauna, geological formations or wildlife in Surtsey.
- Make sure that you take all luggage and waste with you when leaving the island.
- There is no drinking water or toilet facilities on the island. The expedition must bring with them all supplies.
- While staying on the island all members of the crew must comply to the instructions from the supervisor from the Environment Agency that accompanies the group.

- The crew cannot go to the island unless accompanied by a supervisor from the Environment Agency and the team of scientists from the University of Iceland that is scheduled to go at the same time.
- Filming must take place in agreement with the scientists who will be working in Surtsey at the time.

Special conditions regarding Gullfoss and Geysir:

- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- Crew members must take great care not to break geysirite at the Geysir area.
- A sign that indicates that a permit to film has been obtained from the Environment Agency, must be placed at the site.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- If travel toilets are used within the sites, disposal of the contents should be done in authorized discharge site outside the protected area.

Conditions regarding all locations, Surtsey, Gullfoss and Geysir:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Every measure must be taken not to cause damage to the site and limit the size of the filming site.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.

- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season. For rest of the year it is not allowed to fly in a closer proximity to bird cliffs than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

Instruction on how to clean clothes and equipment are in an attachment.

The decision may be appealed to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources according to art. 26 of Act no. 37/1993 on Administrative Procedures, based on Art. 91 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation within three months from the date of this letter.

Permission fee:

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Sigríður Skaftadóttir
lawyer

René Biasone
advisor